

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A refrigerant pipe washing method comprising:
accessing refrigerant piping of an existing ~~when an~~ air conditioner (1) that used a mineral-oil-based refrigerant oil; and
~~is updated to or replaced with an air conditioner using an HFC refrigerant as the working refrigerant and the existing refrigerant piping (6, 7) is to be reused as is, wherein~~
removing the residual refrigerant oil in the refrigerant piping is ~~removed~~ by washing the refrigerant piping using a cleaning agent comprising an HFC refrigerant containing at least 40 wt% of R32.
2. (Currently Amended) The refrigerant pipe washing method recited in claim 1, wherein
the cleaning agent is in a wet state and the refrigerant piping (7) is washed by flushing it with the cleaning agent.
3. (Currently Amended) The refrigerant pipe washing method recited in ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein
the cleaning agent does not contain any R134a.
4. (Currently Amended) The refrigerant pipe washing method recited in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein
the cleaning agent contains only components that are contained in ~~the~~ a working refrigerant that will be used when the air conditioner update is complete.

5. (Currently Amended) An air conditioner updating method, wherein comprising:
at least a portion (2, 5) of the equipment constituting an existing air conditioner (1) is updated or replaced while the refrigerant piping (6, 7) of the existing air conditioner, i.e., the existing refrigerant piping, is reused as is, the method including the following steps:
recovering a refrigerant recovery step (S1) in which the working refrigerant containing the an existing refrigerant oil, i.e., a mineral oil based refrigerant oil, is recovered from the an existing air conditioner;
updating selected equipment an equipment updating step (S2) in which at least a portion of the equipment constituting at least a portion of the existing air conditioner is updated or replaced while leaving at least a portion of existing refrigerant piping of the existing air conditioner;
charging a refrigerant charging step (S3) in which the existing air conditioner with that has the equipment updated replaced is charged with a new working refrigerant comprising an HFC refrigerant containing at least 40 wt% of R32; and
washing the existing refrigerant piping of the existing air conditioner that used the existing refrigerant oil by circulating a pipe washing step (S4) in which the new working refrigerant charged in the refrigerant charging step is circulated, such that the existing refrigerant oil remaining in the existing refrigerant piping is carried along with the new working refrigerant during the circulating of the new working refrigerant, and separating the existing refrigerant oil is separated from the working refrigerant in order to remove it the existing refrigerant oil from the existing refrigerant piping.

6. (Currently Amended) The air conditioner updating method recited in claim 5, wherein
during the ~~pipe washing step (S4)~~, of the existing refrigerant piping, the new working refrigerant is circulated in such a manner that the new working refrigerant in a wet state flows through the existing refrigerant piping (7).

7. (Currently Amended) A refurbished ~~An~~ air conditioner (101) ~~that is obtained by updating or replacing at least a portion (2, 5) of the equipment of an existing air conditioner (1) and changing the working refrigerant to an HFC refrigerant, the air conditioner comprising the following~~ comprising:

existing refrigerant piping (6, 7) that was used with the an existing air conditioner and contains residue of ~~the an~~ existing refrigerant oil, ~~i.e., a mineral oil based refrigerant oil~~;

a heat source unit (102) and a user unit (105) that are connected together by the existing refrigerant piping with a replaced working refrigerant disposed therein; and

an oil collecting device (127) that is configured such that after the ~~working~~ existing refrigerant oil has been changed and before the refurbished air conditioner is run in a normal operating mode, the oil collecting device can draw in the replaced working refrigerant that is being circulated through the air conditioner and separate the existing refrigerant oil that is carried with the replaced working refrigerant,

the replaced working refrigerant is being an HFC refrigerant containing at least 40 wt% of R32.

8. (New) The refrigerant pipe washing method recited in claim 2, wherein

the cleaning agent does not contain any R134a.

9. (New) The refrigerant pipe washing method recited in claim 2, wherein

the cleaning agent contains only components that are contained in a working refrigerant that will be used when the air conditioner update is complete.

10. (New) The refrigerant pipe washing method recited in claim 3, wherein

the cleaning agent contains only components that are contained in a working refrigerant that will be used when the air conditioner update is complete.